

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ANKARA 03486 070620Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /071 W

-----071636Z 066216 /45

R 061330Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7418

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 3486

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU, US

SUBJ: ECEVIT STATEMENT ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THE ELECTION

1. A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED MAY 5 BY THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) SAID THE FOLLOWING:

BEGIN QUOTE:

SOME JOURNALISTS, RECALLING THE ANXIETIES EXPRESSED BY SOME AMERICAN CIRCLES IN CONNECTION WITH THE POSSIBLE IMPAIRMENT OF TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS DUE TO THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN TURKEY, HAVE ASKED REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT FOR HIS THOUGHTS ON THIS TOPIC. BULENT ECEVIT SAID THE FOLLOWING ON THIS SUBJECT:

"TURKEY'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THE PROBLEM OF SECURITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ARE THE BASIC TOPICS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ANKARA 03486 070620Z

OF THIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN. PUBLIC OPINION IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH THESE PROBLEMS. ASIDE FROM GENERAL OUTLINES AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I DO NOT SEE A PROBABILITY THAT FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS WILL COME TO THE FOREFRONT OF THIS CAMPAIGN OR WILL DRAW THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST. FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW, THE ANXIETY FELT BY THE AMERICANS IS GROUNDLESS.

THESE COMMENTS OF MINE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT WE DO NOT ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BUT AT PRESENT THERE ARE VITAL AND URGENT PROBLEMS IN WHICH TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION IS INTERESTED.

SOME WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE TALKED WITH ME RECENTLY HAVE TOUCHED UPON ANXIETIES--ESPECIALLY ANXIETIES FELT ON THIS SUBJECT BY OFFICIAL AMERICAN CIRCLES--TO THE EFFECT THAT, DUE TO THE ARMS EMBARGO, DEMIREL MAY FALL INTO A DIFFICULT SITUATION IN THE ELECTIONS, MAY BE PUSHED INTO A CORNER. TO THEM I SAY THE FOLLOWING:

'THERE MAY BE SOME ZEALOUS PERSONS ENDEAVORING TO CREATE WITHIN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION THE SUSPICION THAT SUCH A POSSIBILITY EXISTS. BUT I FIND THIS SUSPICION GROUNDLESS. IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN THE PUBLIC WILL NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH WHETHER OR NOT THE ARMS EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED. BECAUSE THE TURKISH PUBLIC IS PRESENTLY MORE CONCERNED WITH SOME INTERNAL PROBLEMS, INTERNAL EVENTS WHICH ARE DISTURBING THEM. DEMIREL IS MORE LIKELY TO BE IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION AS A RESULT OF THOSE INTERNAL PROBLEMS. THE TURKISH PEOPLE BEHAVE VERY RESPONSIBLY WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS.'

WITH REGARD TO THIS SUBJECT I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU OF THIS: THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY, WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN POLICY TOPICS, IS, TRADITIONALLY, VERY CAUTIOUS. EVEN WHILE CRITICIZING FOREIGNERS, IT TAKES CARE NOT TO INCITE FEELINGS, NOT TO CREATE A NEGATIVE PUBLIC OPINION, AGAINST ANY COUNTRY OR STATE. DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPAIRMENT OF TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL COME ABOUT ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ANKARA 03486 070620Z

IF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SHOULD GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT HAS TAKEN SIDES IN THE TURKISH ELECTIONS AND WANTS TO GIVE ITS SUPPORT TO ONE SIDE, OR IF SUSPICIONS SHOULD BECOME WIDESPREAD THAT AMERICAN INFLUENCE IS INVOLVED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN INTERNAL EVENTS CREATING DISORDER." END QUOTE.

2. MUCH OF TURKISH PRESS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RIGHTIST TERCUMAN, ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY THE LEFTIST-ORIENTED PAPERS) GAVE ECEVIT'S TATEMENT FRONT PAGE TREATMENT, INVARIBALY PLAYING UP THE CONCLUDING SENTENCE OF THE RELEASE IN BOTH HEADLINE AND LEAD PARAGRAPH, THEREBY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT BASIC POINT OF THE STATEMENT WAS A WARNING TO THE US.

3. RPP PRESS DIRECTOR CALLED USIS PRESS OFFICER TO STATE THAT ECEVIT'S TATEMENT HAD BEEN DISTORTED BY FAULTY EDITING AND TO ASK THAT U.S. OFFICIALS NOT FORM OPINIONS UNTIL THEY HAD HAD CHANCE TO SEE ORIGINAL TEXT. (AS NOTED ABOVE, HOWEVER, ONLY SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORIGINAL RELEASE

AND PRESS ARTICLES LAY IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THE POINTS WERE PRESENTED.) RPP PRESS DIRECTOR SAID, WHEN ASKED, THAT RPP HAD NO INTENTION OF ISSUING STATEMENT TO CORRECT IMPRESSION CREATED BY THE PRESS'S TREATMENT OF THE ORIGINAL.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE ECEVIT PROBABLY EXPECTS TO FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT AND WANTS IF POSSIBLE TO AVOID MAKING HIS POSITION AS PRIMIN MORE DIFFICULT BY TAKING STANDS IN HIS CAMPAIGN ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS OR BY STIRING UP THE ANTI-US SENTIMENTS OF A SECTION OF HIS PARTY. HOWEVER, THIS CAMPAIGN STANCE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT ECEVIT, IF HE DOES FORM A GOVERNMENT, WILL BE LESS CONCERNED THAN DEMIREL ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS OR WILL BE ANY EASIER TO DEAL WITH.
MACOMBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, PRESS RELEASES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA03486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770161-0479
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770587/aaaacxfa.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 48cd8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2622009
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT STATEMENT ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THE ELECTION
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU, US, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/48cd8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009